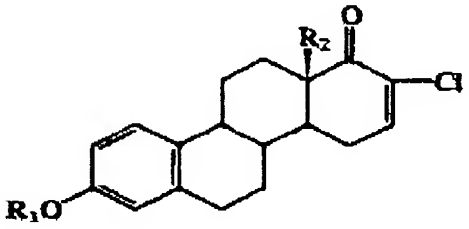
Amendments to the Specification:

Please add the following material to the specification on page 13, first line.

The compounds of formula I can be prepared by a process characterized in that a 17-chloro-1,3,5(10),16-tetraene-17-one of general formula II



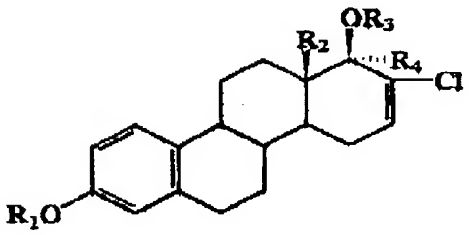
(II)

in which

R_1 means a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-5} alkyl radical, a C_{1-6} alkanoyl radical or benzoyl radical,

R_2 means C_{1-6} alkyl group,

is converted with a magnesium-organic reagent of general formula BrMg alkyl, BrMg alkenyl or BrMg alkinyl or with acetylene or an alkyl- or aryl-substituted acetylene in the presence of bases such as tert-BuOk or with a lithium-organic compound such as LiC_2F_5, or with a silicon-organic compound such as trifluoromethyl trimethylsilane into a 17aα-substituted compound of general formula III,



(III)

in which

R_1 is a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-6} alkyl radical, a C_{1-6} alkanoyl radical or a benzoyl radical,

R_2 is a C_{1-6} alkyl group,

R_3 is a hydrogen atom, a metal atom or a silyl group, and

R_4 is a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-6} alkyl group, a C_nF_{2n+1} group, in which n=1, 2 or 3, or a $C{\equiv}CR_5$ group, in which R_5 is a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-6} alkyl radical or an unsubstituted or substituted phenyl radical,

whereby in the case of R_5 = hydrogen, the free 17aα-ethinyl compound of general formula III is further modified by a SONAGASHIRA reaction to form compounds with $R_5 = C_6H_4R_6$, in which R_6 stands for a free or substituted hydroxyl group, amino group, thiol group, sulfamate group, sulfonyl group or a C_{1-6} alkyl group or C_{6-12} aryl group.

In another aspect, the compounds of formula III in which R_1 is a C_{1-6} alkyl radical, are converted by ether cleavage into the free hydroxyl group.

In another aspect, the compounds of formula III, in which R_1 is an acyl radical, are converted by ether cleavage into the free hydroxyl groups.

In another aspect, the compounds of formula III, in which R_3 is a hydrogen atom, are converted into ethers or esters.